



CONNECTICUT STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

October 2018

Volume 3



October 2018 Filing Reminder! eCRIS After Hours Support

After Hours Support is available during
the October 2018 filing period.



NEWSLETTER

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Notice to All Ongoing Political Committees – Biennial Re-Registration Due November 15, 2018

All ongoing political committees that file with the Commission must file, by November 15, 2018, either (1) an amended registration (SEEC Form 3 (traditional political committees) or SEEC Form 8 (independent expenditure political committees)) if there have been any changes since its last registration; or (2) a SEEC Form 3NC (traditional political committees) or SEEC Form 8NC (independent expenditure political committees) indicating that there have been no changes, additions or deletions to the committee's last registration on file with SEEC.

The failure of a committee to file one of these forms by November 15th will result in the committee being **prohibited from accepting** lobbyist contributions during the 2019 and 2020 legislative sessions and **prohibited from making** contributions to committees covered by the sessional lobbyist provision during these sessions as well.

If there have been no changes, the treasurer or deputy treasurer can submit the SEEC Form 3NC / 8NC through eCRIS.

New this year, a chairperson, treasurer, or deputy treasurer can update their contact information (residential address, mailing address, email address, and/or phone number) on the committee registration form in eCRIS. These changes will constitute an amendment of the registration form and the officer who is changing his or her contact information is the only one who must certify the amendment. The chairperson may also make these changes by initiating the amendment through the traditional process (where all officers must certify the amendment) except in the case of a change in residential address – only the individual whose residential address is changing may change it. Any other changes to the registration (bank information, whether they are established or controlled by a lobbyist, etc.) will have to be initiated by the chairperson through eCRIS and the chairperson, treasurer, and deputy treasurer, if applicable, must all certify the amendment. Therefore, they will all need to have eCRIS accounts. If you do not already have eCRIS access, you may set up an account by going to our eCRIS homepage (<https://seec.ct.gov/eCrisHome/>) and selecting "Sign Up for eCRIS Account" under "How to get Started." Please do so as soon as possible to ensure you are able to timely file.

If a committee believes it is unable to file by eCRIS, it should contact Commission staff as soon as possible for further guidance.





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October Quarterly Filing Due Wednesday, October 10, 2018

The filing period for the October quarterly report (**October 10 Filing**) commenced October 1, 2018 and ends October 10, 2018. All town committees, political committees, and candidate committees* must file this report regardless of financial activity. The filing must cover the period starting with the first day after the period covered by the last filing through September 30, 2018.

***Important Note:** Candidate committees of candidates who never made it onto the ballot but remain open are required to file the October quarterly report. The only candidate committees that are not required to file are those of candidates who were unsuccessful in a primary and are not eligible to appear on the general election ballot.

Filing Tip for Town Committees and Political Committees:

When preparing to file the seventh day preceding election filing due October 30, 2018, please be sure to select "7th Day Preceding General Election" filing in your standard dropdown menu. The report, "Independent Expenditure General Election" filing in the nonstandard dropdown menu, is not the proper report name for this filing.



General Election Weekly Supplemental Filings Set to Begin Soon

Every statewide office and General Assembly candidate committee in a general election race in which there is at least one candidate participating in the CEP must file weekly supplemental statements with the Commission beginning with the second Thursday following the October quarterly filing through the Thursday before the election. CEP candidate committees of candidates who are unopposed must only submit the final weekly supplemental filing. The deadlines are as follows:

Name of Report	Period Covered	Filing Deadline
First Weekly Supplemental Filing General Election	10/01/18 – 10/16/18	10/18/18
Second Weekly Supplemental Filing General Election	10/17/18 – 10/23/18	10/25/18
Final Weekly Supplemental Filing General Election	10/24/18 – 10/30/18	11/01/18

Candidate committees of candidates who are not in a race with a CEP participant are only required to file the seventh day preceding election filing, which is due October 30, 2018, covering October 1 through October 28.



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Final CEP Grant Application Deadlines

If you plan to participate in the Citizens' Election Program and have not yet applied for a grant, please be aware that the final application deadline for a general election grant is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 12, 2018. Below are the remaining application deadlines and meeting dates for a general election grant:

Application Deadlines – 5:00 p.m. on the following:	Commission Meeting Dates (General Assembly campaigns)	Commission Meeting Dates (Statewide Office campaigns)
Wednesday, October 10	Wednesday, October 17	Friday, October 19
Friday, October 12*	Friday, October 19	Friday, October 19

*Committees that apply on **Friday, October 12, 2018** will not be able to reapply if their application does not meet the required thresholds for receiving a grant.

Please note that these deadlines do not coincide with the dates of the grant reduction schedule set forth in P.A. 17-2 (June special session). Please see the Commission's separate document on 2018 grant amounts for more information on the grant reduction schedule. Below are the general parameters:

Date of Grant Application	Major Party Full Opposition	Major Party Limited Opposition	Major Party Unopposed	Minor & Petitioning 20% signa- tures/vote	Minor & Petitioning 15% signa- tures/vote	Minor & Petitioning 10% signatures/ vote
Between 8:00 a.m. Tues., Sept. 25, 2018 through 5:00 p.m. on Fri., Oct. 5, 2018	55% of full grant amount	55% of 60% grant amount	55% of 30% grant amount	55% of full grant amount	55% of 2/3 grant amount	55% of 1/3 grant amount
Between 8:00 a.m. Tues, Oct. 9, 2018 through 5:00 p.m. on Fri, Oct. 12, 2018	40% of full grant amount	40% of 60% grant amount	40% of 30% grant amount	40% of full grant amount	40% of 2/3 grant amount	40% of 1/3 grant amount



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Secondary Payee Reporting and Documentation

Campaigns often hire consultants and committee workers who in turn pay other vendors (known as "secondary payees") to provide goods and services to the committee. During our post-election reviews in the 2016 election cycle, we discovered that the most common error was a failure to disclose secondary payee information. This continues to be a common issue during the current election cycle.

As you may recall, committees are required to report these types of payments in two places:

- 1) Report the payment to consultants and committee workers in "Expenses Paid by Committee" (Section N of the SEEC Form 30 / Section P of the SEEC Form 20).
- 2) Report the entity that was ultimately paid in "Itemization of Reimbursements and Secondary Payees" (Section R of the SEEC Form 30 / Section T of the SEEC Form 20). This entry will also connect the secondary payee to the consultant or committee worker.

To clarify what type of secondary payee information must be provided by all parties, Commission staff has sample [fee arrangements](#), [wage records](#), and [reimbursement and secondary payee information sheets](#). These samples are located on our website. If you have any questions, please call and ask to speak to one of our Compliance attorneys.

REMINDER – 24-Hour Independent Expenditure Reporting

The Commission continues to remind committees, groups, and individuals seeking to make independent expenditures for General Assembly and statewide office candidates in excess of \$1,000 that we are now in the period in which such expenditures, when made or obligated to be made, must be reported within 24 hours.

For more information, please see our [webpage](#) on independent expenditure reporting or give us a call at 860-256-2940.



Documenting Online Advertising

For those committees utilizing any online platform for advertising (and by online platform it should be understood to mean any public-facing website, web application, or digital application, including social media such as Facebook or Twitter, ad networks, and search engines), copies of invoices or bills directly from the online platform or provider should be obtained and maintained by the committee on whose behalf the advertising was done. The invoices or receipts from the provider, along with a copy of the communication, will establish that the advertisement was actually placed and that a permissible expenditure was made. To be clear, bare line items by full-service consultants (e.g. \$3,500 – Social Media), with nothing further provided, are inadequate documentation.



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Staff Spotlight

Paralegal Specialist Evelyn Gratacos retired in August 2018 after serving the Commission for eleven years. The Commission and staff wish her well.



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